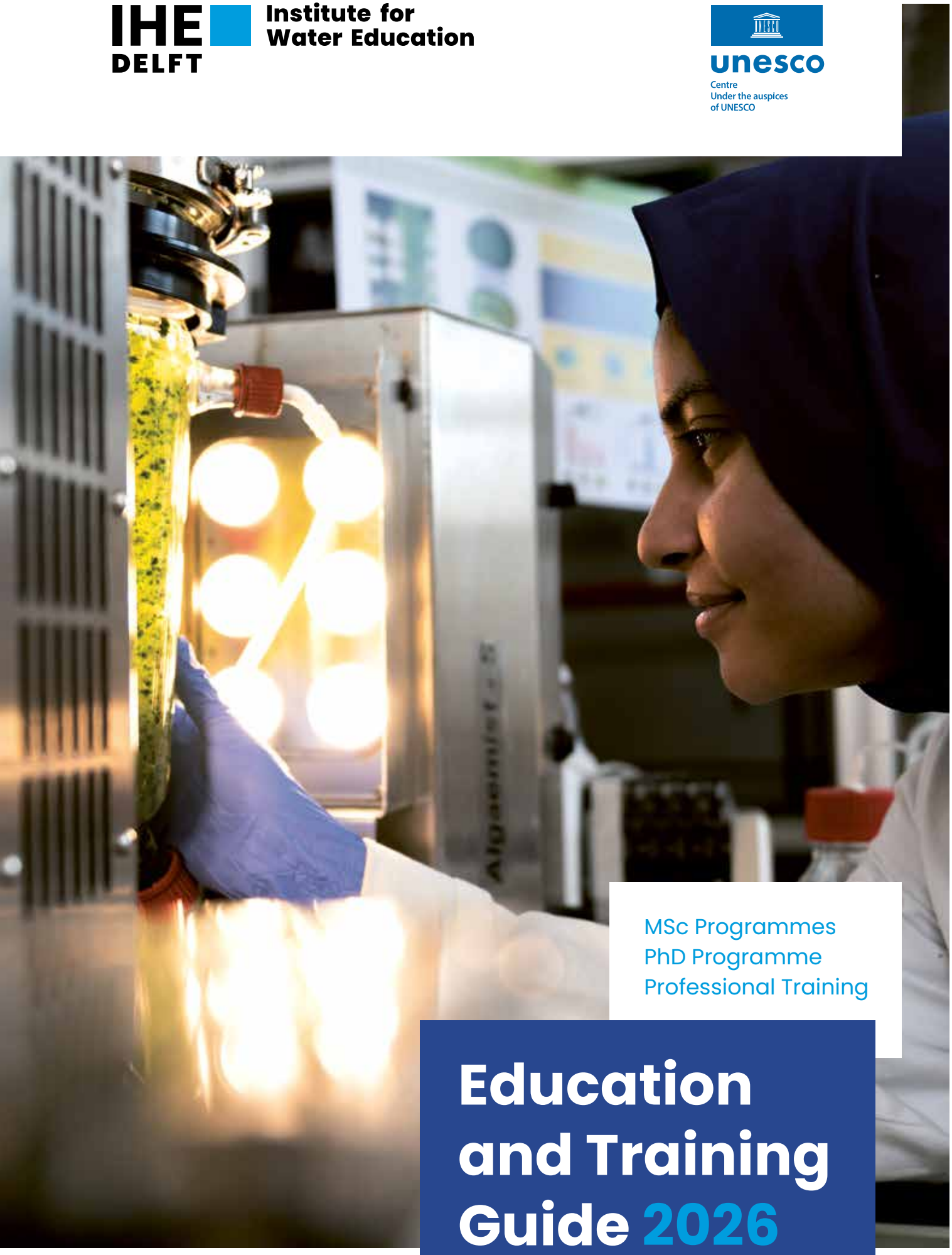
IHE DELFT Institute for Water Education

unesco Centre Under the auspices of UNESCO



MSc Programmes
PhD Programme
Professional Training

Education and Training Guide 2026



A better water future starts with capacity

Climate change. Pollution. Acute water shortages. Dwindling groundwater resources. Drought. Floods. These challenges, which lead to loss of life, poor health and food insecurity, can be tackled – with human capacity. Sparking the development of such capacity is our main job at IHE Delft. People determined to change the water world for the better come to IHE Delft – either in person or online – to advance the skills and knowledge they need to tackle the world's water challenges.

We're all about impact. The more than 25,000 people who have studied at IHE Delft are making a positive difference around the world through impressive careers. Some are government ministers. Some have a career in science. Some are water managers. Some lead utilities. Some negotiate transboundary water sharing agreements. Some work for the United Nations or other international organizations. And many do other things – but all are joined in their major contributions to a better water world.

Are you interested in pursuing an MSc? We have two options for you. Is your goal to work to resolve water-related challenges? Our one-year MSc in Water and Sustainable Development is made for you. If you aim for a career in research or academia, consider our longer Research MSc in Water and Sustainable Development. If you already have an MSc and want to dig deeper, consider our PhD programme. Are you a water professional looking to enhance your skills? We also offer shorter courses, including free online courses. Do you need help developing the skills of your company, authority or organization? Get in touch to explore our tailor-made solutions for organizations. Browse through this guide to find information about our curricula and the topics we offer – I and my colleagues hope to welcome you!

Partnerships are key to everything we do at IHE Delft. Together with our partners, we continuously improve our educational programmes and delivery methods: online, on-campus and blended, to meet the needs of water professionals worldwide.

If you want to strengthen your ability to solve global water problems while enhancing your career prospects, IHE Delft is the place for you. Join us!

Professor Eddy Moors, Rector



10 reasons to study at IHE Delft

We offer:

- A unique range of water expertise across disciplines
- A clear focus on sustainable development
- Personal guidance and mentoring
- 65+ years of experience in graduate water education
- Internationally renowned lecturers and professors
- A truly international environment
- The largest global water alumni network
- Close ties to the UN system
- A gateway to Dutch water know-how
- A place to study in a vibrant city in the heart of Europe



A network for life

Many alumni say their IHE Delft studies boosted their careers and transformed their lives. They talk about learning from each other and the Institute's world-renowned teaching staff. They say they loved engaging with peers and staff from other cultures and disciplines, and they note with satisfaction that they built a network for life - the largest water professional network in the world.

Make IHE Delft your network

IHE Delft acts as a hub for partnerships and networks across the globe, linking global knowledge to local sector agendas. The Institute collaborates with public and private partners in a wide range of fields and technical cooperation in human and institutional capacity building. These partners, at the international, United Nations, EU and national levels, include education and research institutes, knowledge centres, the (Dutch) Water Sector, funding agencies, non-governmental and governmental organizations. Through partnerships, the Institute's impact expands.

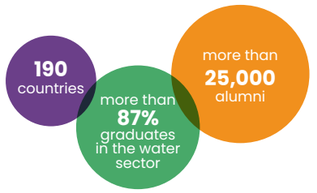
The Institute maintains close working relationships with regional and local networks to share scientific and technical expertise, and to strengthen the capacity of water professionals and institutions. These networks, often thriving professional communities, encourage joint research, knowledge sharing and the development of sustainable water solutions.

As a student, you profit from the Institute's professional contacts. When studying at IHE Delft, you will learn from leading figures from the international water arena. The global context, including dialogues and targets such as the Sustainable Development Goals, provides a framework for your studies.



Alumni network

After graduation, you will be part of the largest network of water professionals in the world. IHE Delft will facilitate the communication between you, your former classmates, and the Institute. E-newsletters, alumni gatherings and webinars keep alumni updated on news about the Institute and the water sector. You are encouraged to join the IHE Delft Alumni group in your country, where you can meet fellow alumni, network and enjoy professional and social activities.



2024 IHE Delft

Delft, Netherlands, Europe

IHE Delft is located in the historical centre of Delft, a city of great charm characterized by ancient canals, beautifully kept monuments and historic squares. It is also a young, vibrant city with a large student population and an ideal starting point to explore the Netherlands and Europe.

A home in the heart of Europe

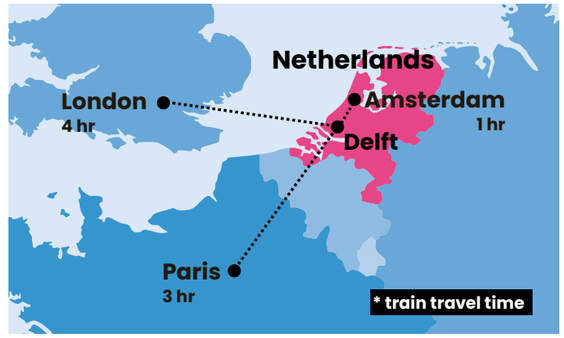
Water has always played an important role in both the Netherlands' and Delft's history and continues to do so today. Therefore, it is no surprise that many science and technology organizations related to water have chosen Delft as their home base. IHE Delft maintains close working relationships with various Delft-based research and education institutes, including the Delft University of Technology (TU Delft), Deltares and the Delfland Water Board.

As a university city, Delft offers plenty of cultural events and an abundance of cafés and restaurants that cater to every taste and make time spent away from your studies enjoyable and relaxing.

Safe cycle paths throughout Delft and the Netherlands provide recreation, exercise and a free means of commuting to IHE Delft from your student accommodation – all of the housing we offer is close to the Institute.

Delft is well connected to the efficient Dutch public transport system, making The Hague, Rotterdam, Schiphol International Airport and Amsterdam easily accessible. It is a great location from which to explore other places of interest, both within the Netherlands and Europe.

Delft is known for its historical town centre with canals, Delft Blue pottery, painter Johannes Vermeer and scientist Antony van Leeuwenhoek and its association with the royal House of Orange-Nassau.



Your international experience

Staff at the Institute simplify your transition to the Netherlands by organizing annual Introduction Days. During these days, staff is on hand to help you deal with residence permits, health insurance, bank accounts and other formalities. The introduction period is also packed with activities that offer opportunities for new students to get to know each other and Institute staff.

Throughout your study period, IHE Delft organizes social, cultural and sports events, allowing you to get the most out of your free time. You can use TU Delft's sports facilities, including the gym, and take part in numerous sports and cultural classes. You can join organized trips that help you discover Dutch culture, Delft, the Netherlands and Europe.

"It came as a pleasant surprise that the Institute arranged a room for me. My studio was basic but had everything I needed, including my own kitchen and bathroom, work space and a balcony. Most of the IHE Delft students live in this apartment building which creates a sense of community. There are stores and supermarkets nearby and it is only a five-minute bike ride from the Institute and the lively old town of Delft."

Jorge Diaz Mayorga, Colombia
MSc Graduate 2023





"IHE Delft gives you the complete experience! The exchange of cultures, the teaching methods and approaches, the location of the institute, access to sport facilities and the amazing support you get if you are dealing with any personal problems."

Ivonne Liere Quevedo, Guatemala
MSc Graduate 2023



Housing

Delft is a university city, and accommodation is scarce and expensive. This is why IHE Delft provides fully furnished accommodation in Delft for all students of the Institute's Delft-based programmes, available upon arrival and for the duration of the study period. Advice and assistance will be provided to students of all other programmes.

Academic excellence

At IHE Delft, you learn from world-class professors and lecturers, as well as distinguished guest lecturers from around the globe. They share cutting-edge knowledge, real-world experience, and diverse perspectives, giving you an inspiring and truly international learning experience.



"Water doesn't just come from a tap: healthy eco-systems provide the resources society needs to survive."

Graham Jewitt
Professor of Hydrology



Damir Brdanovic
Professor of Citywide Inclusive Sanitation



Michael McClain
Professor of Ecohydrology



Uta Wehn
Professor of Citizen Science and Sustainability



Charlotte de Fraiture
Professor of Land and Water Development



Ioana Popescu
Professor of Hydroinformatics



Aaron Wolf
Professor of Water Cooperation and Diplomacy



Maria Kennedy
Professor of Water Treatment Technology



Rosh Ranasinghe
Professor of Climate Change Impacts & Coastal Risk



Pieter van der Zaag
Professor of Integrated Water Resources Management



Piet Lens
Professor of Environmental Biotechnology



Dano Roelvink
Professor of Coastal Engineering and Port Development



Margreet Zwarteveen
Professor of Water Governance



Jules van Lier
Professor of Environmental Waste Water Engineering



Susanne Schmeier
Professor of Water Law, Governance and Diplomacy

For an overview of our associate professors, lecturers and researchers, visit www.un-ihe.org/people/staff



"That everyone should have access to water services is beyond debate. We consider these services so basic and essential that people should have access regardless of their ability to pay for this service."

Klaas Schwartz
Professor of Water Services Governance



"Justice is critical to convincing people in both the Global South and North to act urgently. Without it, we cannot achieve rapid emissions reductions or prevent catastrophic climate impacts. A just approach to climate change is crucial."

Joyeeta Gupta
Professor of Law and Policy in Water Resources and Environment



"I see us, researchers and educators, trying to create technological innovations and guiding principles that help the world to progress sustainably. So, let us build on that positivity and not be demotivated by the lack of long-term vision of our governments."

Tânia Vasconcelos Fernandes
Professor of Eco-Technologies for Circular Economy

MSc Programmes

Everyone who decides to study at IHE Delft has their individual motivation, but all are united by a wish to contribute to solving water challenges. How you achieve this and meet your career goals will depend on your disciplinary background and professional interests. Our two unique MSc Programmes can help you get there.



MSc in Water and Sustainable Development

The one-year (68 EC) MSc in Water and Sustainable Development is flexible and adaptable to your interests. You choose one of the four thematic tracks: Water Hazards, Risks and Climate; Water and Health; Water, Food and Energy; and Water Resources and Ecosystem Health. You can study your track from different perspectives (profiles): Engineering Sciences; Governance and Management; Environment; Sanitation; and Digital Innovation and Hydroinformatics. Alternatively, you can combine profiles from different tracks to build a customized programme that meets your specific interest and needs.

You will write a thesis to complete your MSc – a mentor will help you develop the proposal and support you through the writing process. Interwoven throughout the MSc programmes is a series of professional skills sessions, in which you learn about topics such as science communication, group dynamics and leadership.

Research MSc in Water and Sustainable Development

If you are interested in a career in research or academia, consider the two-year (120 EC) Research MSc in Water and Sustainable Development. It follows a trajectory similar to the one-year MSc in Water and Sustainable Development for the first year, with a variation in course work to emphasise research skills. In the second year, you will focus on conducting your research, with additional training in science philosophy, research techniques and academic writing, among other relevant topics.

Joint MSc Programmes

IHE Delft is part of several joint MSc Programmes, including two Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Programmes. Students in a joint programme follow part of the curriculum of the MSc in Water and Sustainable Development while another part is given at one or more partner institutes, often in another country or continent. For more information about these programmes, see page 14-15.

Key features

- CUSTOMIZED STUDY TRAJECTORIES
- ACTIVE COACHING
- INTERDISCIPLINARY
- PROBLEM-ORIENTATED CURRICULA
- PROFESSIONAL SKILLS
- LIFELONG LEARNING



"After graduating from IHE Delft, I plan to apply the interdisciplinary knowledge and skills I've gained to address the interconnected challenges facing South Sudan. My focus will be on improving agricultural water management to promote sustainable food production."

Tombek John Modi, South Sudan
MSc in Water and Sustainable Development 2024/25
Water, Food and Energy track
Governance and Management profile

www.un-ihe.org/master



MSc in Water and Sustainable Development

If you seek a science-based MSc degree that is anchored in professional practice, the MSc in Water and Sustainable Development is ideal for you.

This programme targets early and midcareer water professionals who want to gain knowledge and skills to tackle water challenges while enhancing their career opportunities.

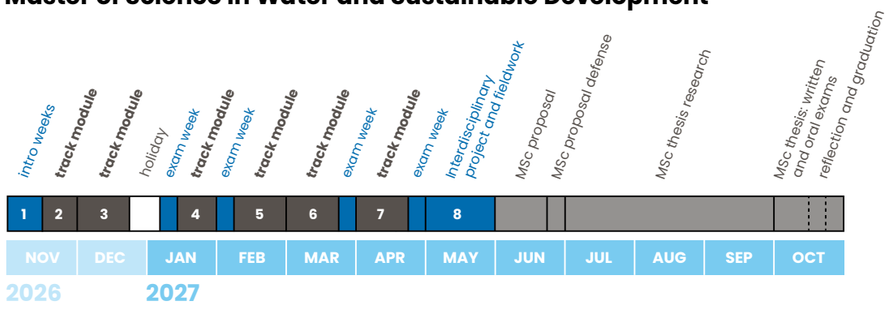
The one-year duration keeps the time away from work and home to a minimum. The programme allows you to stay connected with the sector and/or your employer through the option of co-designing the thesis topic. The programme's curriculum comprises common parts, thematic track modules and a thesis research part. The contents of the common parts are the same for all students, while the thematic track modules and MSc thesis research are part of a customized learning trajectory based on your personal learning ambitions.

Common parts

The MSc Programme is oriented toward professional practice. Besides gaining disciplinary and interdisciplinary knowledge of the water field, students develop transferable skills, both academic and non-academic. The track modules include days dedicated to skills training and are alternated with weeks that include one or two days for exams and time for portfolio development and coaching. In the interdisciplinary project (module 8), you make a preliminary analysis from an interdisciplinary perspective of a water-related problem, work in teams to formulate possible solutions and propose measures to address the problem and related threats and opportunities.

Academic calendar

Master of Science in Water and Sustainable Development



NVAO ACCREDITED PROGRAMME



"My experience at IHE Delft has been incredibly enriching and stimulating. From the moment I arrived, I was impressed by the Institute's dynamic academic environment. The student body is very diverse, and the wide range of cultures and backgrounds makes the learning experience inclusive and collaborative."

Prajakta Santosh Gaware, India
MSc in Water and Sustainable Development 2024/25
Water Hazards, Risk and Climate track / Engineering Science profile

Thematic track modules

After the joint start in module 1, you follow six modules based on your personal learning goals and academic background. These modules are grouped in four closely connected and partly overlapping thematic tracks that are based on current societal water challenges. Within a thematic track, you choose a disciplinary profile. You list your choice of track and profile to apply for admission, but you can change your choices later on if need be. Check out our list of study areas, each aligned with potential track and profile combinations – it might help you identify the most suitable path for you.

STUDY AREAS	THEMATIC TRACK OPTION(S)	DISCIPLINARY PROFILE OPTION(S)
Aquatic ecosystems	1, 4	
Coastal engineering	2	
Environmental planning and management	1, 4	
Flood and drought	2, 4	
Hydraulic engineering	1, 2, 3, 4	
Hydrology and water resources	2, 4	
Irrigation	1	
Remote sensing and GIS	1, 4	
River basin development	2, 4	
Sanitary engineering	3	
Surface and groundwater hydrology	2, 4	
Urban water management	2, 3	
Water law, policy and politics	1, 2, 3, 4	
Water supply engineering	3	
Wetlands	4	

Check our website for a list of eligible Bachelor degrees in relation to tracks and profiles.

THEMATIC TRACK

1. **Water, Food and Energy**
2. **Water Hazards, Risks and Climate**
3. **Water and Health**
4. **Water Resources and Ecosystem Health**

DISCIPLINARY PROFILE

- Engineering Sciences
- Governance and Management
- Environment
- Digital Innovation and Hydroinformatics
- Sanitation

Research MSc in Water and Sustainable Development

The Research MSc in Water and Sustainable Development will prepare you for a career in research, academia or to pursue a PhD.

This programme targets early and mid-career water professionals with a recognized Bachelor's degree who are primarily interested in a career in research or academia and/or would like to pursue a PhD in a water-related area.

During the course of the two-year programme, you will develop academic and cognitive skills needed to create new knowledge and solutions that address complex water challenges in inclusive and sustainable ways.

Because most water problems transcend a single discipline, the programme adopts a multi- and inter-disciplinary approach, while also building in-depth of knowledge in your own field of interest. It helps you prepare for a career in research or a PhD by enabling you to develop solid knowledge and expertise in your own field as well as academic and non-academic skills.

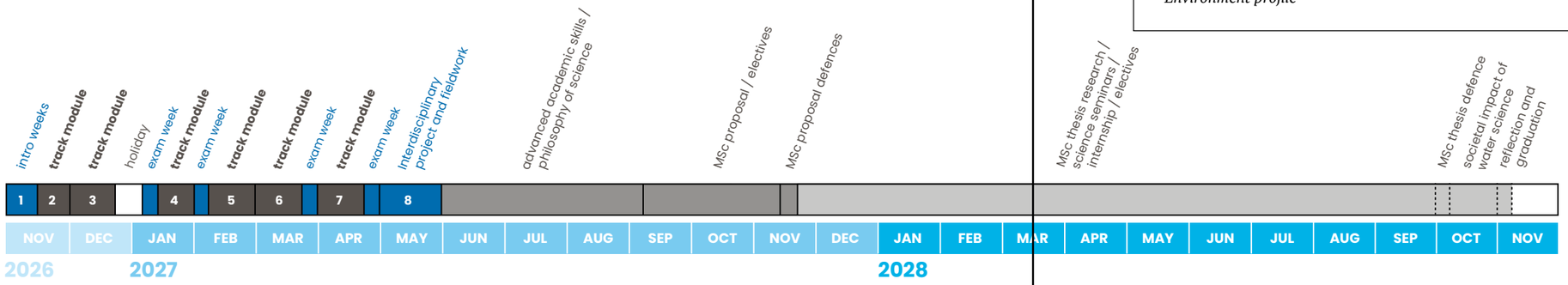
You will enhance your ability to think critically, to develop and use research methodology, to analyse data, to collaborate with key stakeholders and professionals from other fields, to communicate and to work independently.

The first part of study follows a similar trajectory to the one-year MSc, with a variation in course work during the mixed weeks to emphasise research skills. In the second part, you will focus on your research, with additional training in science philosophy, research techniques and academic writing, among other relevant topics.

Research skills such as critical thinking, critical reading, scientific writing, intellectual openness and science ethics are part of the curriculum.

Academic calendar

Research Master of Science in Water and Sustainable Development





Research skills such as critical thinking, critical reading, scientific writing, intellectual openness and science ethics are part of the curriculum.

MSc proposal and academic skills development

In this six-month period you will further develop your academic skills, choose electives and develop a research proposal. Following an interdisciplinary project, you define your thesis research. From then onward, you will discuss your research questions and objectives with your coach and begin searching for literature and do preliminary reading.

You will meet regularly with your supervisory team, which is chaired by an associate professor and two mentors, often from different disciplinary backgrounds. The research proposal needs to describe the context and importance of the topic and link it to societal challenges or existing scientific debates.

Thesis research

During the extensive thesis research phase, you will conduct the research outlined in your proposal. The thesis research may be based on lab experiments or modelling using existing databases. It can also include fieldwork in the Netherlands or abroad, for example in your home country. You can also do your research with an IHE Delft partner abroad, including your employer, under the umbrella of an existing project or collaborative activity.

Depending on the topic of your research, you can use IHE Delft facilities, such as laboratory facilities for faecal sludge, microbiological and chemical analysis, and experimentation of water and waste water treatment. Our IT facilities support specialized software packages for modelling, programming, remote sensing, engineering design and big data analysis.

IHE Delft operates in a network of partner research organizations and universities, in the Netherlands and abroad, which can host and support you during your thesis research. They offer you the opportunity to implement your research in a real-world setting and provide facilities such as hydraulic labs and specialized equipment.

You will capture and analyse the research results in a Master thesis that you will present and defend in a public session.

Societal impact of water science

In this module, you work to increase the impact of your research through communication. You will create an action plan that includes communication to make your research results accessible to society and increase societal impact.

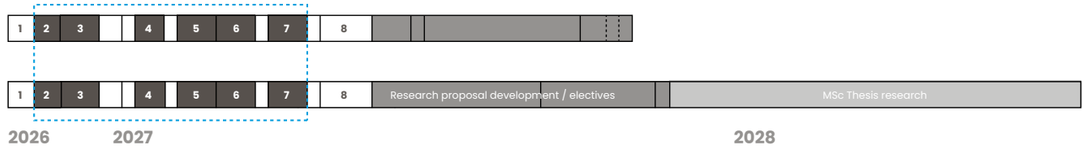
"My thesis examines how inadequate WASH facilities lead to faecal pathogen contamination, endangering vulnerable groups, especially in humanitarian settings. Focusing on Cox's Bazar refugee camp in Bangladesh, where overcrowded and unsanitary conditions prevail, my research highlights areas for intervention and collaboration with organizations like the World Health Organization. It offers insights for policymakers on improving WASH implementation and prevention measures."



Feranmi Folahan, Nigeria
Research MSc in Water and Sustainable Development 2023/25 - *Water and Health track*
Environment profile

NVAO ACCREDITED PROGRAMME

TRACKS



Water, Food and Energy

Food and energy production require substantial amounts of water. At the same time, Water scarcity, and the decline of ecosystems threaten equitable access to food and energy.

TERM 2

Introduction to Water, Food and Energy

- Engineering Sciences
- Governance and Management
- Environment
- Digital Innovation and Hydroinformatics

TERM 3 OPTIONS

- Water-Energy-Food Nexus: Approaches for River Basin Management
- Rethinking Water
- Digital Innovations for Water Challenges

TERM 4 OPTIONS

- Energy Harnessing in the Urban Water Cycle
- Water and Agriculture
- Organizing Water
- Water Quality Assessment and Monitoring
- Hydrological Monitoring, Data Collection and Analysis

TERM 5 OPTIONS

- Marine renewable energy sources
- Irrigation Design, Performance Assesment and Modernisation
- Food System Transformation for Sustainable Food Production and Climate Change Adaptation
- Artificial Intelligence for Water Systems

TERM 6 OPTIONS

- Hydraulic Design of Structures
- Remote Sensing for Agricultural Water Management
- Policy Analysis
- Integrated Modelling of Water, Environmental and Social Systems

TERM 7 OPTIONS

- Dams and Hydropower
- Transformation, Advocacy and Change
- Wastewater Reuse in Agriculture
- Wetlands for Livelihoods and Conservation
- Sensing and Geo-procession for Precision Agriculture

STUDY AREAS

- Aquatic ecosystems
- Environmental planning and management
- Hydraulic engineering
- Hydrology and water resources
- Irrigation
- Remote sensing and GIS
- Water law, policy and politics

Water Hazards, Risks and Climate

Climate change and related exceptional weather conditions are here to stay. Whether it concerns droughts, floods or any of the other climate extremes, the world urgently needs to adapt to 'the new normal'.

TERM 2

Introduction to Water Hazards, Risks and Climate

- Engineering Sciences
- Governance and Management
- Environment
- Digital Innovation and Hydroinformatics

TERM 3 OPTIONS

- Introduction to Coastal Science and Engineering
- Urban Drainage and Sewerage
- Hydrology and Ecosystems
- Rethinking water
- Modelling Theory and Computational Methods in Hydraulics and Hydrology

TERM 4 OPTIONS

- Coastal Processes and Morphology
- River Basin Modelling
- Organizing Water
- Water Quality Assessment and Monitoring

TERM 5 OPTIONS

- Modelling Coastal Hazards
- Drought Risk Management
- Water Conflict and Cooperation
- Finance and Implementation
- Artificial Intelligence for Water Systems

TERM 6 OPTIONS

- Design of Risk Reduction Measures in Coastal Zones
- Planning Nature-based Solutions for Urban Water Management
- Flood Risk Management
- Policy Analysis
- Integrated Modelling of Water, Environmental and Social Systems

TERM 7 OPTIONS

- Climate Change Adaptation in Lowland Areas
- Assessing Social and Environmental Impacts
- Decision Support Systems in Water Domain

STUDY AREAS

- Coastal engineering
- Flood and drought
- Hydraulic engineering
- Hydrology and water resources
- River basin development
- Surface and groundwater hydrology
- Urban water management
- Water law, policy and politics

Water and Health

Safe water and sanitation are the primary drivers of public and environmental health - and access to them is a human right. Improving service levels to provide safely managed drinking water and sanitation, such as regulated piped water and a complete sanitation service chain, can dramatically improve public well-being.

TERM 2

Introduction to Water and Health

- Engineering Sciences
- Governance and Management
- Sanitation
- Environment

TERM 3 OPTIONS

- Surface Water Treatment
- Urban Drainage and Sewerage
- Rethinking Water
- City-Wide Inclusive Sanitation

TERM 4 OPTIONS

- Groundwater Resources and Treatment
- Wastewater Treatment Processes and Technologies
- Organizing Water
- On-Site Sanitation and Treatment
- Water Quality Assessment and Monitoring

TERM 5 OPTIONS

- Water Transport and Distribution
- Sludge Treatment and Resource Recovery
- Finance and Implementation

TERM 6 OPTIONS

- Desalinisation and Water Re-use: Engineering and the Environment
- Wastewater Treatment Design and Selection
- Policy Analysis
- Humanitarian WASH

TERM 7 OPTIONS

- Drinking Water Treatment Plant Design
- Industrial Water and Resource Management
- Experimental Methods for Evaluation of Wastewater, Sanitation and Environmental Technologies
- Transformation, Advocacy and Change
- Wastewater Reuse in Agriculture

STUDY AREAS

- Hydraulic engineering
- Sanitary engineering
- Urban water management
- Water law, policy and politics
- Water supply engineering

Water Resources and Ecosystem Health

Globally, ecosystems and the water resources they support are in perilous decline. Maintaining healthy ecosystems is the basis for delivering resources equitably and efficiently to support people's health and well-being and is the basis for sustainability.

TERM 2

Introduction to Water Resources and Ecosystem Health

- Engineering Sciences
- Governance and Management
- Environment
- Digital Innovation and Hydroinformatics

TERM 3 OPTIONS

- Hydrology and Ecosystems
- Rethinking Water
- Digital Innovations for Water Challenges

TERM 4 OPTIONS

- Hydraulics for Engineering Applications
- River Basin Modelling
- Hydrological Monitoring, Data Collection and Analysis
- Organizing Water
- Water Quality Assessment and Monitoring

TERM 5 OPTIONS

- River Morphodynamics
- Surface Water and Groundwater Flow Dynamics
- Finance and Implementation
- Water Conflict and Cooperation
- Aquatic Ecology and Bioassessment
- Artificial Intelligence for Water Systems

TERM 6 OPTIONS

- Hydraulic Design of Structures
- Geochemistry and Tracers for Hydrological Studies
- River and Floodplain Rehabilitation
- Integrated Modelling of Water, Environmental and Social Systems

TERM7 OPTIONS

- Dams and Hydropower
- Hydrological Modelling - Groundwater and Surface Water Systems
- Assessing Social and Environmental Impacts
- Wetlands for Livelihoods and Conservation

STUDY AREAS

- Aquatic ecosystems
- Environmental planning and management
- Flood and drought
- Hydraulic engineering
- Hydrology and water resources
- Remote sensing and GIS
- River basin development
- Surface and groundwater hydrology
- Water law, policy and politics
- Wetlands

Module options are subject to change, please check the website for the latest information.

www.un-ihe.org/master



Entry Requirements

Admission to the MSc programme requires a Bachelor degree at level B/B+ (US system) or upper 2nd (British system) in an appropriate field awarded by a university of recognised standing. Proof of English language proficiency is also required. Visit our website to learn more about the requirements for the MSc Programmes.

Students are academically admitted to the programme based on their initial preference for a thematic track and disciplinary profile (see page 7). Digital innovation and hydroinformatics, engineering sciences and sanitation profiles will require a more technical background, whereas environment and governance profiles accept students from a wider range of disciplines. Check our website for a list of eligible Bachelor degrees in relation to tracks and profiles. Once the admission is final, students interact with a coach to explore which individual study trajectory best fits their learning ambitions. The scope of modules students can choose from depends on their background. Preparatory online courses help students fill knowledge gaps to expand their options.

Although work experience is not a pre-requisite, it is an asset. Preference will be given to candidates with at least two years of relevant work experience and clear ideas of how the study will open up career perspectives.

Application and admission process

Inform yourself
Visit www.un-ihe.org/master and gather information about the MSc programmes and admission requirements.

Take English test (if applicable)
Check www.un-ihe.org/english for our English language requirements, and -if required- book an English test as early on in the process as possible.

Compile documents
Compile all required documents, including academic transcripts, English test results, CV and motivation statements.

Submit application
Submit all required documents at apply.un-ihe.org. Complete applications are usually processed quickly, and you can expect an admission outcome about three to four weeks[1] after applying. The application deadline is **1 July 2026**

Academically admitted?

Look for funding (if applicable)
Use admission letter to look for funding. Most scholarship deadlines fall between January and May 2026.

Financially admitted?
IHE Delft will arrange:
- Accomodation[2]
- Travel
- Insurance
- Visa to the Netherlands

Start preparatory course(s)
The following preparatory courses are available: Chemistry, Ecology, English, Financing, Hydraulics, Hydrology, Mathematics, Microbiology, Social sciences, Statistics.
Please note that an English preparatory course is recommended for all prospective Master of Science students.

1. if you apply for the research master this may take longer and you may be invited for an interview as part of the application process.

Questions?

Visit our Frequently Asked Questions page at www.un-ihe.org/faq

2. for most MSc students, housing is available. Please note that we do not offer family accommodation.

Scholarships

To foster talent and promote the sustainable management of water resources, IHE Delft and partner organizations offer a diverse range of scholarships that enable students from various backgrounds and regions to pursue their academic aspirations. These scholarships provide financial assistance, encourage diversity and recognize outstanding achievements.

The **IHE Delft Colfuturo Joint Graduate Loan-Scholarship Programme** offers shared financing for Colombian students enrolled in MSc degree programmes at IHE Delft

The **FirstRand IHE Delft Water Education Scholarship** provides full funding for one South African student each year.

The **Joint Japan/World Bank Graduate Scholarship Program (JJ/WBGSP)** provides full funding for mid-career professionals from countries defined by the program as developing countries with relevant experience in water resources management.

The **Rotary Scholarship Programme for Water and Sanitation Professionals** aims to tackle the world's water and sanitation crisis by increasing the number of trained professionals to devise, plan, and implement solutions in developing and emerging countries. Through this partnership, a limited number of scholarships are awarded annually.

For self-paying students, IHE Delft Partial Scholarships are available, in effect reducing the tuition fee for the Regular or Research MSc.

Applicants are also strongly encouraged to search and apply for other scholarships.

For more information and other scholarships, visit www.un-ihe.org/scholarships

For Erasmus Mundus programmes and scholarships see page 14-15.

Preparatory courses

The MSc programmes require students to have the necessary background knowledge to succeed in the courses and assignments. Preparatory eLearning courses are available to help students reach the required level of knowledge.

Depending on the student's background and preferred track and profile, one or more preparatory courses may be relevant. Students can self-assess knowledge via diagnostic tests. These test results are shared with their coach and inform the process of selecting a study trajectory.



Joint MSc Programmes

Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree programmes

IHE Delft is part of two Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree programmes that focus on solutions for global water issues such as environmental degradation, floods and droughts.

Groundwater and Global Change – Impact and Adaptation (GroundWatCh)

is a joint MSc programme with a duration of 24 months, offered by IHE Delft in cooperation with the Technical University of Dresden in Germany and the University of Lisbon in Portugal. Students start at University of Lisbon before coming to IHE Delft for the second semester, and then move to Technical University of Dresden for the third semester. In the final semester, students undertake a thesis research project in association with one of the abovementioned institutions and possibly external partners.
www.groundwatermaster.eu

Flood Risk Management

is a joint MSc programme with a duration of 24 months, offered by IHE Delft in cooperation with the Technical University of Dresden in Germany, UPC Barcelona in Spain and University of Ljubljana in Slovenia. Students start at Technical University of Dresden in Germany before coming to IHE Delft for the second semester and move to UPC Barcelona and University of Ljubljana for the third semester. In the final semester, students undertake a thesis research project in association with one of the abovementioned institutions and possibly external partners.
www.floodriskmaster.org

Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

Erasmus Mundus Scholarships

Erasmus Mundus Scholarships offer fully funded opportunities to students from both programme countries (EU/EEA students) and partner countries (students from the rest of the world). A limited number of scholarships are available to those who have successfully applied to and been accepted by the Erasmus Mundus programmes. The application deadlines for these scholarships typically fall in January and February.

"It was a professionally enriching and personally rewarding experience that deepened my passion for groundwater, allowed me to connect with like-minded people from around the world, and prepared me for a fulfilling career."



Nele Wotha, Germany
Groundwater and Global Change – Impact and Adaptation (GroundWatCh) Graduate 2021

Other Joint MSc Programmes

International Master in Water Science Engineering for Innovation and Sustainability

is a double-degree joint MSc programme offered by IHE Delft and the Escuela Colombiana de Ingeniera Juan Garavito (ECIJG) in Colombia. The programme starts annually in August, when students spend the first semester (22EC) at ECIJG in Bogota, Colombia. The students move to Delft in January, where they will continue the taught phase joining the MSc in Water and Sustainable Development until June (37EC). Students finish their studies with a thesis research (30EC) phase either at IHE Delft in the Netherlands, or ECIJG in Colombia until December.

Limnology and Wetland Management

is a joint-degree MSc programme offered by IHE Delft, BOKU University in Austria and Egerton University (EGU) in Kenya. Students start at BOKU, where they have four months of course work prior to coming to IHE Delft. They participate in IHE Delft's modules 5 to 8 before moving to EGU for courses and fieldwork as well as thesis research.

Water Science and Engineering in Hydropower Development

is a double-degree joint MSc programme offered by IHE Delft and University of Kuala Lumpur (UniKL) in Malaysia. Students start at IHE Delft and complete all modules up to and including module 8 and an online module on Environmental Flows before moving to UniKL for course- and fieldwork and thesis research.

"So many memories are close to my heart–the first intro sessions, the potluck in Dresden where we got to taste amazing cuisines from all over the world, the autumn beauty of Tharandt, biking around the canals in Delft, the beautiful Mediterranean Sea near Barcelona, and the unforgettable Florida field trip that brought all of us in programme closer, not just as friends, but as a family."



Namrata Karki, Nepal
Flood Risk Management Graduate 2024



UNIVERSITAT POLITÈCNICA DE CATALUNYA BARCELONATECH · BOKU UNIVERSITY · ESCUELA COLOMBIANA DE INGENIERÍA JULIO GARAVITO UNIVERSIDAD · Dresden University of Technology · UniKL · TÉCNICO LISBOA · UNIVERZA V LJUBLJANI University of Ljubljana

PhD Programme

The PhD programme is at the core of water-related research at IHE Delft. PhD candidates undertake scientific research, often with conclusions that directly address water challenges in their own countries or regions.
At IHE Delft, close to 75 PhD candidates from around the world are brought together to participate in problem-focused, solution-orientated research into development issues, resulting in an inspiring research environment.

As a PhD candidate, you may contribute to research in one of the Institute's ongoing projects, or you may define your own research topic within IHE Delft's themes:

- Risks, adaptation and resilience on coasts and in cities
- Integrated, resilient and inclusive land and water use
- Knowledge and innovation for sustainable societies
- Safe drinking water & sanitation
- Sustainable freshwater resources and ecosystems
- Water governance for justice, peace and sustainability

IHE Delft PhD Candidates are guided by a supervisory team comprising research staff from IHE Delft, from partner universities in the Netherlands, and from universities abroad.

All PhD candidates are registered both with the IHE Delft Graduate School and with a Dutch partner university with the legal authority to award the degree of PhD. The degree is fully recognised in all parts of the world.

All PhD candidates are members of the SENSE Research School. This research school is an academic network for integrated environmental and sustainability research and multidisciplinary PhD training, which further enriches the PhD experience and expands the available resources. Many additional opportunities for collaboration are available in IHE Delft's global network of partner institutions.



"I intend to design resilient infrastructures that harmonize with the energy of the waves. My PhD research primarily focuses on developing a numerical model to investigate the motion of ships/floating objects due to waves within a shallow water region. Employing this numerical model will help to simulate various scenarios for optimizing the layout and functionality of the ports and navigating channels to ensure the efficient movement of goods and vessels and mitigate the risk of marine accidents. This synergy between engineering, nature, safety, and cutting-edge simulations is the cornerstone of sustainable and secure port development."

Saidee Hasan, Bangladesh
PhD Candidate - Theme: Risks, adaptation and resilience on coasts and in cities

Our PhD Programme

Conducting your PhD research at IHE Delft is a unique experience that allows you to work in an international environment with people from a wide array of cultural backgrounds. This enables you to build a network with peers from your own region and other regions.

What will I learn?
You will follow your own tailor-made doctoral education programme focused on your learning wishes and needs. You will become an independent researcher and expert in your field and will be able to:

- Formulate scientific questions.
- Conduct original scientific research.
- Publish in scientific journals.
- Integrate your research in the framework of the corresponding scientific discipline and against the background of a broader scientific area.
- Place the research aims and research results in a societal context.

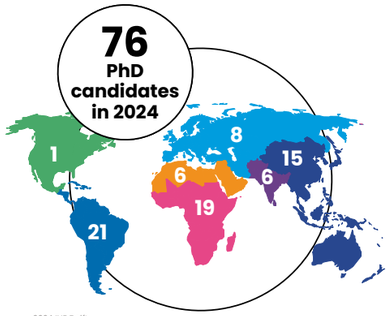
Entry requirements
To become an IHE Delft PhD candidate you need to have an MSc degree with high qualifications - at least B+ (US system), 2nd Upper (British system) or a GPA of 3 out of 4 - in an appropriate field and from a university of recognised standing. You must also provide proof of English proficiency. Visit our website to learn more about the requirements.

As part of the application, you will submit your own research proposal on a topic that falls within the IHE Delft research themes.

You need to be a team player who also excels in independent research. You will conduct research in collaboration with your supervisory team, and actively contribute to our PhD community.

IHE Delft Graduate School in Water and Development

IHE Delft is a unique knowledge institute in the Dutch research and educational landscape, combining excellence in research and PhD training with a mission to strengthen capacity in the water sector and support sustainable development. The Graduate School manages the PhD programme and helps coordinate Institute research. It works closely with partner universities around the world to strengthen doctoral education. The IHE Delft Graduate School aims to develop a stimulating research environment for PhD candidates and the Institute's staff.





"Understanding and modelling the relationship between Land-Use Land-Cover (LULC) change and floods and droughts is essential to improve decision-making in land use policy and water management. However, this remains challenging due to the large amount of spatial and temporal data that needs to be analysed and simulated. To address this challenge, my PhD research aims to develop a hybrid modelling framework that integrates machine learning techniques with hydrological modelling. This integration will enhance the representation of the impacts of dynamic LULC changes on floods and droughts. The research focuses on a river basin in the Amazon, serving as a case study for implementing the modelling framework."

Eliana Torres Peralta, Colombia/Mexico
PhD Candidate - *Theme: Knowledge and innovation for sustainable societies*



Prestigious thesis awards for IHE Delft PhD Graduates

In 2023, Afua Owusu from Ghana won the Falkenmark award for best PhD thesis for her work on the protection and restoration of naturally flowing rivers through the provision of environmental flows. The prize, awarded by the International Association of Hydrological Sciences, recognizes outstanding contributions to hydrological understanding of water scarcity and water supply.

Jonatan Godinez Madrigal from Mexico was awarded the 2023 prize for the best inter-disciplinary PhD thesis in the Netherlands by the Royal Holland Society of Sciences and Humanities. Out of 76 submissions, Godinez Madrigal's thesis titled "Paradigm lost - on the value of lost causes in transforming cities and water systems' development pathways", was unanimously chosen by the jury.



Professional Training

IHE Delft aims to make water education accessible to as many students and professionals as possible. The Institute therefore offers online and on-campus short courses and open courseware on a wide array of topics.

Online and short courses

IHE Delft offers high quality online and on-campus courses in many important water-related topics. The courses benefit those who work or aspire to work in public and private institutions, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions and other entities involved in water and development. The time needed to take the courses vary, but all are designed with busy professionals in mind. We offer online courses, on-campus short courses and free online courses.

The latter feature educational materials, including recorded lectures and downloadable materials such as course notes, exercises, tools and public domain software on a wide variety of topics. Many of these courses offer a certificate to participants who successfully complete the course.

Looking ahead

We aim to make our education open and accessible to everyone so that professionals in the water sector can update their knowledge and skills to make a meaningful impact on global water and development challenges. By collaborating with alumni, partner organizations and the water sector at large, we ensure that our education is aligned with real-world needs.

"The course has equipped me with invaluable knowledge and skills. I am now better prepared to address public emergencies, particularly in the areas of water, sanitation and hygiene promotion. The training has deepened my understanding of the critical role these elements play in safeguarding communities during crises. It has not only enhanced my professional capabilities but also reinforced my commitment to making a positive impact in emergency response efforts."

Imrani Omary, Tanzania
Online Course on Public and Environmental Health in Emergencies 2024



Online Courses 2025

	Duration (weeks)	Start date		End date
Urban Drainage and Sewerage	18	12 Jan 2026	-	15 May 2026
Water Policy Analysis: A Systems Approach	9	4 Feb 2026	-	1 Apr 2026
Water and Sanitation in Urban Humanitarian Context*	18	2 Mar 2026	-	26 Jun 2026
Governance in Humanitarian Contexts*	18	6 May 2026	-	4 Sep 2026
Biological Wastewater Treatment: Principles, Modelling and Design	22	26 May 2026	-	23 Oct 2026
Building Resilient Systems in Fragile Contexts*	18	20 Jul 2026	-	13 Nov 2026
Desalination and Membrane Technology	18	31 Aug 2026	-	15 Jan 2027
Public and Environmental Health in Emergencies*	18	5 Oct 2026	-	12 Feb 2027

* part of Graduate Professional Diploma Programme in Humanitarian WASH

Dates are subject to change - please check the website for updates.

On-campus Short Courses 2025

	Duration (weeks)	Start date		End date
City-Wide Inclusive Sanitation	3	1 Dec 2025	-	19 Dec 2025
Young Water Diplomats Programme*	n/a	8 Jan 2026	-	10 Jul 2026
Energy harnessing in the urban water cycle	3	12 Jan 2026	-	30 Jan 2026
On-site Sanitation and Treatment	3	12 Jan 2026	-	30 Jan 2026
Organizing Water	3	12 Jan 2026	-	30 Jan 2026
Wastewater Treatment Processes & Technologies	3	12 Jan 2026	-	30 Jan 2026
Irrigation Design, Performance Assesment and Modernisation	3	9 Feb 2026	-	27 Feb 2026
Modelling Coastal Hazards	3	9 Feb 2026	-	27 Feb 2026
River Morphodynamics	3	9 Feb 2026	-	27 Feb 2026
Design of Risk Reduction Measures in Coastal Zones	3	2 Mar 2026	-	20 Mar 2026
Humanitarian WASH	3	2 Mar 2026	-	20 Mar 2026
Policy Analysis	3	2 Mar 2026	-	20 Mar 2026
Wastewater Treatment Design and Selection	3	2 Mar 2026	-	20 Mar 2026
Remote Sensing for Agricultural Water Management	2	9 Mar 2026	-	20 Mar 2026
Assessing Social & Environmental Impacts	3	30 Mar 2026	-	17 Apr 2026
Experimental Methods for Ecaluation of Wastewater, Sanitation & Environmental Technologies	3	30 Mar 2026	-	17 Apr 2026
Wastewater Reuse in Agriculture	3	30 Mar 2026	-	17 Apr 2026
Water Resources Assessment using Remote-Sensing Data	2	15 Jun 2026	-	26 Jun 2026
Water Resources Planning under Changing Climate and Environment	2	29 Jun 2026	-	10 Jul 2026

* online meetings every two weeks for six months and two in-person events (Irbid, Jordan and Delft)

Dates are subject to change - please check the website for updates.

Open Courseware - continous

Delta Planning and Management
Fundamentals of Freshwater Health
Irrigation Management and Development
Understanding Climate Change Basics
Water Transport and Distribution
Water Productivity and Water Accounting using WaPOR (also available in Arabic and French)
Water Cooperation and Diplomacy*
Water Accounting and Auditing*
Co-Creation of Human-Centred Climate Services*

* Massive Open Online Course (MOOC)

Open Courseware offering is subject to change – please check the website for updates.

Solutions for water sector organizations

Water sector organizations worldwide face a myriad of challenges: climate change effects, rising demand and increasing pollution. It is crucial to develop capacity, both at the individual and organizational level, to deal with these challenges.

IHE Delft educates future water leaders and works with organizations to strengthen the sound management of water resources. We offer tailored support to organizations seeking to develop their capacity.

Organizations who work with us include utilities, academic institutions, government and nongovernment organizations, private companies and other organizations in the water sector and beyond.

Co-creating capacity development

IHE Delft support always begins with a dialogue to determine the capacity needs of the organization. Then, our experts work with organization representatives to jointly develop a targeted intervention to reach the organization's intended result. IHE Delft also offers post-intervention support for the longer term.



"Water is the number one issue in Iraq. The course helped negotiators from both technical and diplomatic fields to learn about integrated management of water resources, equipping them with the tools required to form arguments and counter-arguments in dealing with riparian countries."

Humam Luay Abdul-Muhsin
Counsellor at the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Customized training course 2024, part of the project:
"Supporting Integrated and Sustainable Water Management in Iraq through Capacity Development and Research"

Capacity development solutions

Advisory services
- Curricula development.
- Needs assessment / organizational analysis.
- Business plan and strategy development (policy, knowledge management, change management).
- Competency assessment and frameworks development and HR management plans.
- Advice on specific processes and/or infrastructure development (laboratories, libraries, media centres, digitalization processes).

Customized education and training
- Group training of staff members (for example: short courses, MSc education or PhD training)
- Structured on-the-job training and action learning.
- Training of trainers: professional training of staff members that who will train others in the organization, including training on didactical skills.
- Management and leadership education focusing on behavioural and leadership skills for staff members to develop into agents for change in an organization.
- Refresher courses or other post-intervention activities.

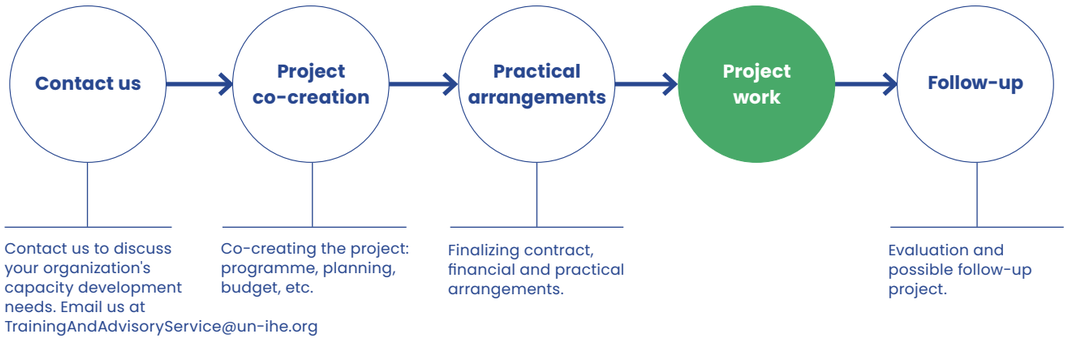
Joint research and innovation
- We partner with organizations to offer research on topics relevant to them. This can be MSc level research, PhD level research, or action research.

Comparative learning
- Learning through established, improved or newly created, fit-for-purpose professional networks.
- Learning through Communities of Practice.
- Peer learning, including bench-marking activities and study tours, for example to Dutch water sector organizations.

IHE Delft support always begins with a dialogue to determine the capacity needs of the organization.



Do you want to develop capacity for your organization?





IHE Delft Institute for Water Education is the largest international graduate water education facility in the world. Based in Delft, the Netherlands, IHE Delft confers fully accredited MSc degrees and PhD degrees in collaboration with Dutch partner universities. The Institute conducts research and supports capacity development to address the world's water challenges.

Since the start in 1957, the Institute has provided water education and training to more than 25,000 professionals from over 190 countries, the vast majority from Africa, Asia and Latin America. Institute staff work with partners in cutting-edge research and capacity-development projects with a worldwide impact. IHE Delft aims to make a tangible contribution to achieving all Sustainable Development Goals in which water is key. IHE Delft operates as a foundation under Dutch law. As a Category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO, IHE Delft is a member of the UN-Water network. As such, the Institute is involved in high-level discussions on global water problems. At the same time, we work with partners to apply solutions locally.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

IHE DELFT

Institute for Water Education
under the auspices of UNESCO

Engage with the IHE Delft community anytime, anywhere in the world.

NVAO
ACCREDITED PROGRAMME

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Institute for Water Education

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